

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A temperature control apparatus for controlling the operation of at least one temperature-modifying device, said apparatus comprising:
 - a thermostat housing;
 - a controller to control the operation of said at least one temperature modifying device in response to the electronic comparison of a measured ambient temperature with at least one set point temperature; and
 - display for displaying information received from said controller;
 - wherein said display may be oriented in a plurality of positions, allowing said thermostat housing to be mounted in a plurality of positions.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said controller contains an electrical jumper for orienting said display.
3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said display may be oriented in two positions, each position being rotated ninety degrees from the other.
4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said thermostat housing has labeling that is readable any of said plurality of mounting positions.
5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said temperature control apparatus comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of a digital thermostat and a programmable thermostat.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said controller comprises a programming device for implementing a temperature control program, a memory for storing said temperature control program and temperature related information, a temperature comparator for comparing said ambient temperature with said set point temperature.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, further comprising at least one temperature sensor, in communication with said programmable controller, for sensing said ambient temperature.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said temperature sensor comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of a thermistor, a thermocouple, memory metal, and a bimetallic strip.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said controller comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of a logic circuit on a logic board, a microprocessor, and an integrated circuit.

10. A thermostat comprising:

a housing;

a controller to control the operation of said at least one temperature modifying device in response to the electronic comparison of a measured ambient temperature with at least one set point temperature; and

display for displaying information received from said controller;

wherein said display may be oriented in at least two positions that are rotated ninety degrees apart relative to said thermostat housing, allowing said thermostat housing to be mounted in a plurality of positions.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said controller contains an electrical jumper for orienting said display.

12. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said thermostat housing has labeling that is readable any of said plurality of mounting positions.

13. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said temperature control apparatus comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of a digital thermostat and a programmable thermostat.

14. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said controller comprises a programming device for implementing a temperature control program, a memory for storing said temperature control program and temperature related information, a temperature comparator for comparing said ambient temperature with said set point temperature.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising at least one temperature sensor, in communication with said programmable controller, for sensing said ambient temperature.

16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said temperature sensor comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of a thermistor, a thermocouple, memory metal, and a bimetallic strip.

17. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said controller comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of a logic circuit on a logic board, a microprocessor, and an integrated circuit.

18. A method of configuring a thermostat comprising a thermostat housing, a controller to control the operation of at least one temperature modifying device in response to the electronic comparison of a measured ambient temperature with at least one set point temperature, and a display for displaying information received from said controller, said method comprising the step of setting a default orientation of said display in one of a plurality of orientations relative to said thermostat housing.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said default orientation is set using an electrical jumper in said controller.

20. The method of Claim 18 wherein said display may be oriented in two positions, each position being rotated ninety degrees from the other.